

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04176 271233Z
ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 SSO-00 /021 W
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O 271149Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6922

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 4176

FOR S/NM MATHEA FALCO

NEA FOR DUBS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, PK
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: COORDINATOR POSITION

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED INFORMALLY OF DEPARTMENT'S DECISION THAT NARCOTICS STAFFING REQUIREMENT AT ISLAMABAD IS TO BE MET BY A STATE CONTRACT OFFICER RATHER THAN THROUGH TRANSFER OF THE PROGRAM OFFICER POSITION FROM AID.

2. I WANT TO REGISTER MY STRONG OPPOSITION TO THIS COURSE. AS OUR LATEST ESTIMATES INDICATE (ISLAMABAD 3844), PAKISTAN'S OPIUM PRODUCTION IS INCREASING SHARPLY; LABORATORY CONVERSION TO HEROIN IS NOW A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM, AND INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING FROM PAKISTANI SOURCES IS CERTAIN TO INCREASE. THE NEED FOR INCREASED MISSION ATTENTION TO THOSE PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW APPROACHES TO DEAL WITH THEM IS OBVIOUS TO BOTH THE EMBASSY AND WASHINGTON. OUR EFFORTS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN SEVERELY CIRCUMSCRIBED BY THE VACANCY WHICH OCCURRED WHEN THE AID PROGRAM OFFICER ON NARCOTICS WAS TRANSFERRED ON MEDICAL ORDERS. HE WAS NOT REPLACED, PENDING THE TRANSFER OF HIS POSITION TO THE EMBASSY AND SELECTION OF A SUITABLE
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OFFICER TO FILL IT. THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO INSTITUTE A DOWN-GRADING OF EMBASSY CAPABILITIES IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD.

3. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SUBSTITUTION OF A CONTRACT POSITION WILL MEET OUR LONG-TERM NEEDS IN TRYING TO STRENGTHEN OUR NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN PAKISTAN. IT WILL

BE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO INVEST A CONTRACT OFFICER WITH APPROPRIATE STATUS AND AUTHORITY WITHIN THE MISSION AND THE GOP SO THAT HE CAN FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY AS AN OVERALL COORDINATOR OF OUR NARCOTICS EFFORT. I ALSO SERIOUSLY QUESTION WHETHER THE DEPT WOULD BE ABLE ON A SHORT TENURE CONTRACT TO ATTRACT THE KIND OF OFFICER WE NEED TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP TO THE MISSION NARCOTICS EFFORT AND TO ORIGINATE COMPLEX PROGRAMMING CONCEPTS THAT WILL BE REQUIRED FOR LONG TERM SOLUTIONS TO OPIUM PRODUCTION.

4. I THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT RETURN TO THE ORIGINAL UNDERSTANDING AND ALLOCATE THE AID NARCOTICS PROGRAM OFFICER POSITION TO THE EMBASSY AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

HUMMEL

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